

THOMAS GILES—HEIRS OF.

[To accompany bill H. R. 604.]

DECEMBER 12, 1856.

Mr. KNAPP, from the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, made the following

REPORT.

*The Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of the children of Thomas Giles, a revolutionary soldier, report:*

That, from the statements of the petitioners, as well as from original documentary evidence and historical facts accompanying the same, it is clearly shown, to the satisfaction of your committee, that the said Thomas Giles enlisted for three years in the 13th Massachusetts regiment of continental service, and at the end of said term received an honorable discharge, with a certificate of good soldiership, from the commandant of said regiment; that he again entered the service of the United States in the navy, as sailmaker, and served to the close of the war; that he died the 18th of November, 1795, leaving a widow, to whom he was married June 22, 1780, and before the last period of his service; that she died the 22d of September, 1822, and that neither ever received a pension—for the reason that they died before the enactment of any such laws—nor have they received bounty lands from the United States, for the reason of the clause in the land bounty bill, “*minor*” children, though they are now old and helpless as children in their minority. The continental Congress gave to the *during war man*, and to the heirs and representatives of those slain by the enemy, 100 acres of bounty land; the act of Congress of March 3, 1855, gives to the soldier who served *fourteen days* 160 acres. The children of the *during war man* of the revolution, and those slain by the enemy, under the resolution of Congress of September 16, 1776, are now entitled, though not *minors*, to the undrawn warrant of their ancestors; and your committee are unable to discover the policy or wisdom of the legislators in the framing of the eighth section of the act of March 3, 1855, unless it was to exclude the children of the revolutionary soldier from the benefits of said act, which they are not willing to believe was their intention. And your committee, being unable to perceive any good reason why the children of the revolutionary soldier, though not minors, should not receive the bounty land to which their ancestor

would be entitled, if living, under the last mentioned act, and in view of the impoverished condition of said claimants, rendered so, as alleged by them, and which your committee have no reason to doubt, from the depreciation of their pay and continental money, one hundred dollars of which they paid for a barrel of flour, and seventy-five dollars for a cart load of wood, they have resolved to recommend a bill for the relief of said petitioners, for the reasons above stated ; and a further bill for the land due to their grandfather, Thomas Giles, who was "a combatant at Bunker hill, and died the next day after the battle," which your committee believe comes within the spirit and meaning of the resolution of Congress of September 16, 1776, granting 100 acres of land to such officers and soldiers as shall be slain by the enemy, their heirs and representatives.